

THE MYSORE GAZETTE.

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PART IV.

Official Papers.

ADDRESS OF THE DEWAN OF MYSORE TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY AT MYSORE, ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH OCTOBER 1888.

GENTLEMEN :—I am commanded by His Highness the Maharaja to lay before you to-day, a brief account of some of the more important results of the administration of the Province during the past official year, and, after doing this, to call upon you for any representations you may wish to make, either in the way of calling attention to any local wants or of suggesting any improvements in the administration.

In discharging the duty which thus devolves upon me, the subject that claims my first attention is Finance. Let me remind you, by way of preface, of what I said on this subject in my address last year. On that occasion I attempted to explain the progress of our Revenue during the past fifty years, and pointed out that the income realized in the year 1886—87, *viz.*, 127½ lakhs, was the highest in the financial history of the Province. That high figure was fully a rise of 13½ lakhs from the previous year 1885—86, and now I am glad to be able to inform you that a still further improvement of about 2½ lakhs has accrued during the past year.

With these preliminary remarks I proceed now to read the statements of Revenue and Expenditure under all heads except the Railway.

Receipts.

	1886—87.	1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	87,09,602	85,13,879
Excise	11,78,165	14,94,522
Forest	9,98,364	10,08,417
Stamps	5,15,326	5,05,550
Sayer	4,36,340	4,12,462
Mohatarfa	3,35,104	3,40,181
Law and Justice including Jail Receipts	49,983	70,038
Post Office	68,008	74,300
Registration	56,014	53,823
Amrut Mahal	77,425	61,582
Education	23,588	23,911
Salt	26,107	20,723
Public Works	12,994	13,671
Gold Mining	51,248	33,433
Medical	3,015	12,190
Scientific and other Minor Departments	8,323	5,885
Interest on arrears of Land Revenue	46,217	33,358
Profit or loss on Investment in Government Pro. Notes	40,158	61,666
Interest on Investment in Government Pro. Notes	45,549	1,08,470
Interest on Current Deposit, Madras Bank	Nil.	37,711
Miscellaneous	76,978	90,504
Total.. .. .	1,27,58,508	1,29,76,276

Expenditure.

A.	1886—87.	1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Subsidy	24,50,000	24,50,000
Civil List	13,00,000	13,00,000
Interest on Public Debt.. .. .	4,96,955	4,93,850
Political pensions including allowances in lieu of Jahgir	1,01,901	1,04,020
Military Force	7,37,234	7,17,875
Total... .. .	50,86,090	50,65,745

B.

		1886—87.	1887—88.
		Rs.	Rs.
Administration and Public Departments		2,36,699	2,05,469
Land Revenue charges. { Deputy Commissioners and Establishments		1,60,776	1,68,699
{ Assistant Commissioners and Establishments		58,744	57,341
{ Taluk Establishments		3,18,715	3,21,903
{ Revenue Survey		2,22,570	1,94,069
{ Inam Department		7,964	7,808
{ Remuneration of Village Servants		4,24,472	4,46,113
{ Other items		30,612	38,449
Excise		16,123	28,591
Forest		3,20,687	3,97,529
Stamps		25,455	17,867
Sayer		12,839	13,837
Stationery and Printing		69,718	65,172
Amrut Mahal		34,969	29,904
Scientific and other Minor Departments		62,516	45,820
Total		20,02,859	20,38,571

C.

Law and Justice including Jails.	7,45,289	7,44,379
Police	5,36,992	5,80,401
Education	1,75,610	1,78,172
Muzarayi	2,83,601	2,78,932
Medical	1,45,954	1,64,221
Superannuation pensions and gratuities	2,44,109	2,51,789
Public Works	12,71,132	15,79,906
Post Office	1,29,422	1,35,676
Registration	25,532	25,842
British Officers' furlough and absentee allowances, retiring gratuities, compensation allowances and leave and pensionary contributions	33,852	36,310
Interest on Mysore Savings' Bank Deposits	46,660	51,429
Refunds	66,543	47,284
Purchase and Repair of tents	5,188	33,603
Charges connected with the reception of H. E. the Viceroy	7,291	10,461
Moiety of charges on account of H. H. the Maharaja's Northern India Tour .. ..	..	63,012
Donation to Indo-Colonial Institute, London .. ..	..	50,000
Miscellaneous	1,03,029	62,858
Total		38,20,204
Total		42,94,275

Grand Total.. . 1,09,09,153 1,13,98,591

Land Revenue.—The most noticeable feature in the foregoing statement of Receipts is that the total Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 85,13,879 being Rs. 1,95,000 less than in the previous year. This decrease, however, was not due to any falling off either in the extent of land under cultivation or in the normal Land Revenue Demand for the year, as you will readily gather from the following figures :—

	In 1886—87.	In 1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Amount of previous years' arrears collected	17,95,141	12,95,967
Amount collected on account of current year's Revenue Demand	69,14,461	72,17,913
Total amount collected	87,09,602	85,13,880
Amount of arrears at end of 1887—88 .. ..	..	13,65,461

You will see from these figures that the arrears collected amounted to 18 lakhs in 1886—87 and to only about 13 lakhs last year. Out of the difference of five lakhs, nearly three were made good by a better collection of the year's Revenue, thus leaving a net decrease of nearly two lakhs in the actual receipts of the year. Viewed in the light of the above figures, this decrease is no indication of any instability of this Item of Revenue, nor is there any ground for apprehending that the large collections of last year were in any way abnormal. And I may in this connection remind you that there always is a considerable balance remaining uncollected at the end of every year, as the official and agricultural years do not correspond. The actual Land Revenue Demand has stood at over 81 lakhs during the past two years, a fact which we may regard as a sign of the present satisfactory condition of this branch of our Revenue. It has been the result, in a large measure, of extension of cultivation in all parts of the Province, under the influence of improved irrigation on every side, improved communications by means of the Railway and new roads, and the beneficial operation of the Revenue Settlement now so near completion for the whole Province.

Excise.—The next important Item of Revenue is Excise. It shows a marked improvement from a financial point of view. The Receipts (exclusive of the Civil and Military Station) amounted to 15 lakhs, being $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs better than the $11\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs realized in the previous year.

The Arrack and Toddy contracts were renewed in the beginning of the last year, and advantage was taken of that opportunity to revise the rates of duty and selling price of arrack throughout the Province. The revised scheme is working with success and has contributed partly to the improvement of the Revenue from this source. When in the beginning of 1884—85 a partial revision of duty and price was effected, an increase of nearly one lakh was secured, and three years later, with the completion of the revision for the whole Province, a further increase of Rs. 2,24,000 has resulted. The duty is now made uniform throughout the whole Province, and is fixed at the maximum rate prescribed by the Indian Tariff Act. The retail price is fixed at Rs. 5 per gallon throughout the Province, whereas before the present contract that high rate prevailed only in the Bangalore City and Station, in the Mysore City and in the Towns of Shimoga and Chikmagalur. You will thus see that the selling price of arrack is now pitched much higher than it ever was, but even this has had no effect whatever in reducing consumption. Only a part of the increased Revenue now derived from arrack can be attributed to the higher duty recently adopted. Another part of this increase—though a very insignificant one—may be due to the precautions now taken to prevent adulteration, and to our close watchfulness against illicit manufacture in remote and secluded parts of the Province. But after making every allowance for these causes, there can be no doubt that a considerable part of the increased Revenue is due to a larger consumption. For, let us compare how consumption, as indicated by the Excise Revenue, has increased during the past few years. The Arrack and Toddy contracts were renewed in 1884—85 and again in 1887—88. As compared with 1883—84 the increase under Arrack was 22 per cent in 1884—85 and 74 per cent in 1887—88. Similarly under Toddy the increase was 28 per cent in 1884—85 and 46 per cent in 1887—88. Thus you will see that in 1887—88 the increased consumption of arrack was fully 28 per cent higher than the increased consumption of toddy. This excess in the rate of increase was probably due to the higher duty levied on arrack. Excluding therefore this increase from consideration, we still find a further and considerable increase common to both Arrack and Toddy, which we can only attribute to increased consumption. In my opinion, it is the result of prosperous seasons and good crops, and of the very great rise in the wages of labor which has taken place within the last few years. With extensive Railway Works between Gubbi and Harihar, with the large expansion of the Gold Industry in Kolar, and with Public Works of all kinds employing large numbers of coolies in every part of the Province, the demand for labor has, for some time past, been far in excess of the supply, and has led to the importation of a large miscellaneous class of laborers from outside the Province. The high wages earned by laborers of this class, as well as by those of the Province, account, in my opinion, for a great part of the increased consumption of both Arrack and Toddy.

With the increase of the Excise Revenue the Establishment has had to be slightly strengthened, and in the interests of better supervision there has been adopted a centralized system of manufacture and distribution, which at present is working with marked success, though it appears to labor under the disadvantage of not having a special Officer in charge of its administration. There is also another circumstance to which I wish to refer in this connection—namely, the large and unexpected rise in the price of jaggery during the last year. The cause of this rise has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained; but the rise itself is a matter to be contemplated with satisfaction as it means prosperity to the ryot, though it may tend to reduce the margin of profit left for the present Arrack contractors. What would greatly benefit the cultivator of sugar-cane as well as the manufacturer of arrack is the establishment of suitable sugar factories. With the important Irrigation Works now in course of improvement or construction, greater facilities, I am sure, will come into existence for the establishment of such factories in centres of large sugar-cane growing tracts in parts of the Mysore, Shimoga and Kolar Districts. Such factories, worked in connection with special licensed Distilleries under a system of free distillation, would be the means of establishing a highly remunerative industry in the Province. The stimulus, thereby afforded to the cultivation of so valuable a product as sugar-cane, would add materially to the wealth of the country, and His Highness the Maharaja's Government will be glad to extend to this industry their cordial support and every encouragement in their power.

Returning to the subject of last year's Revenue Receipts, I would add that interest on investments of surplus Revenue amounted to Rs. 1,08,000 and on current deposits in the Madras Bank to Rs. 37,000.

Other items of Revenue call for no special remark, beyond the general one that they have all maintained the prosperous condition attained in the previous year.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure of the past year (exclusive of the State Railway) was Rs. 1,13,98,000 as compared with Rs. 1,09,09,000 in the previous year. Increases have occurred chiefly under the following items :—

	Increase.
Remuneration of Village Servants	21,641
Forests	76,842
Police	43,409
Public Works	3,08,774
Moiety of charges on account of His Highness the Maharaja's North India tour	63,012
Donation to Indo-Colonial Institute in London	50,000
Purchase of Tents	28,415

The first of these items (remuneration of village servants) must keep pace with the progress of our Revenue Settlement. In the Forest Department, the increase has been unavoidable owing to extensive planting and the large areas newly brought under conservancy. Under Police, the increase was due to full effect being given to the re-organization scheme, explained in my address last year. The increase under Public Works was due to several large irrigation and other works being undertaken as will be fully explained hereafter. For many years past, no tents had been supplied to Executive Officers. A new supply was felt to be an urgent want and was partially met by purchases during the past year. The other items appear to require no special comment.

Closing Balance.—Deducting expenditure from Revenue Receipts, the surplus of last year amounted to Rs. 15,77,685. This was reduced to Rs. 14,74,369 by net *payments on account of the State Railway and the last named amount added to the total Revenue surplus on 1st April 1887 (Rs. 50,77,511) gave a closing balance of Rs. 65,51,880 on 31st March 1888.

	Rs.
*Payments ..	3,81,566
Receipts ..	2,78,250
Net payments	1,03,316

Budget Estimates.—The revised Budget Estimates of Receipts (including the State Railway) amount to Rs. 1,26,93,471 against an actual collection of Rs. 1,32,54,526 in the past year. For this year, the estimate under Land Revenue is only 80½ lakhs, though the actual Receipts amounted to over 85 lakhs last year; but the estimate is based upon the Land Revenue Demand (exclusive of arrears) which, as already stated, was about 81 lakhs. Under Forests an increase of over ¾ lakh is expected, chiefly from sandalwood.

The revised Budget provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 1,25,05,047, being Rs. 7,24,890 more than the actual expenditure of the past year. The principal heads under which increased provision is made are :—

Rs.

4,20,000. Under "Public Works," the grant for the year having had to be fixed at 20 lakhs (against 16½ lakhs in 1887--88) owing to several large Irrigation works and two important bridges.

2,19,000. Under "Railway," as the extension to Harihar is fast approaching completion and provision has to be made for payment of interest on capital outlay.

75,000. Under "Forests," owing to extension of plantations and to increased felling operations required to meet the greater demand for timber of all kinds and for sandalwood.

and 41,000. Under "Medical," owing to the large number of new Dispensaries now being opened in every part of the Province, the object being that no Taluk Head-quarters should be without a Dispensary.

The Mysore State Railway.—Before concluding my remarks on the subject of Finance, you will naturally expect me to give you some definite information regarding the arrangement under which the State Railway is being managed and extended by the Southern Mahratta Company. A copy of the contract finally concluded with the Company having recently been received from the British Government, I shall first explain briefly the terms of this contract, and then touch upon its bearing on the finances of the State.

The contract has been concluded by the Secretary of State for India, acting on behalf of the Maharaja of Mysore, and it is to be in force for a period of 46 years from the 30th June 1886 to 30th June 1932. Under the guarantee of the Secretary of State, the Company have raised a loan of £1,200,000, and the proceeds of this loan (£1,224,000, including a premium of 2 per cent) has been

paid by the Company to the credit of the Secretary of State. The sum thus paid amounts in Indian currency to Rs. 1,63,82,801, and is intended to be devoted towards the capital cost of the Mysore State Railway, that is to say :—

Rs.	
68,60,508	towards payment to the Mysore State of the actual capital outlay on the Mysore-Gubbi line up to 30th June 1886, and—
95,22,293	(or such portion of it as may be absolutely necessary) towards expenditure upon the construction and equipment by the Company of the extension from Gubbi to Harihar.

The entire Railway from Mysore to Harihar is to be worked by the Company as a separate system, distinct from their Railways in British India, and the cost of management is to be apportioned between the two systems in the proportion of their respective gross earnings. Out of the net earnings of the Mysore system, the Company are to retain for themselves a quarter share, the remaining three quarters being handed over to the Mysore State. The loan of £1,200,000 raised by the Company is not redeemable before 1st March 1936, but is redeemable after that date upon a year's previous notice being given. Till such redemption, interest upon it at 4 per cent per annum is payable half yearly in London on 1st April and 1st October in each year. As the loan has been taken up upon the guarantee of the Secretary of State, acting on behalf of the Mysore State, there attaches to the latter the obligation to pay interest on it till its redemption. But you will, at the same time, note that there is no obligation whatever, either on the part of the Mysore State or the British Government, to redeem the loan at any time though it is optional to the British Government, and, through the British Government, to the Mysore State, to redeem it at any time after 1st March 1936. Under the terms of the contract, the management of the Railway will, on 1st July 1932, be surrendered by the Company to the Secretary of State acting on behalf of the Mysore State, and from the date of such surrender, the State will be entitled to work it in any way it deems proper. You will thus see that the arrangement in regard to our State Railway is divisible into two distinct parts which have no necessary connection with each other. First, the State has the obligation to pay interest on the loan and the option to redeem it in due time, and secondly, the Company has the obligation of constructing and managing the Railway for a specified term of years and the right to receive as remuneration for such service a quarter of net earnings during such term. I am sure you will agree with me in thinking that this remuneration to the Company for 46 years is not too great a price to pay for the construction of an important Railway with the aid of foreign capital.

The sum of Rs. 68,60,508 being capital cost of the Mysore-Gubbi line up to 30th June 1886, has been paid to the credit of Mysore, out of the capital raised by the Company; and the same has been applied towards the partial liquidation of the famine debt due to the British Government, with effect from 1st July 1886. Since then, two payments of 4 lakhs each have been made by the State towards this debt, which will be completely liquidated by the payment of Rs. 1,99,404 in December next, when the annual payments of 4 lakhs hitherto made on this account will determine.

It is however our intention to continue similar payments and to set them apart towards a special fund for the redemption as well of the Local Railway Debenture Loan of 20 lakhs as of the English Debenture Loan of £1,200,000.

In addition to these payments of 4 lakhs per annum, we have to meet the guaranteed interest on the last named loan. During construction, however, we are only called upon to pay interest upon capital actually spent from month to month. Eventually, we have to pay interest on the whole loan amounting to £48,000 per annum, which, according to average rates of exchange, will probably be about 5½ lakhs of rupees. When the working of the Railway is fully developed—as I hope it will be within the next few years—about 4½ lakhs per annum may be expected as ¾ths of net Railway earnings due to the State, and deducting this amount from interest payable by the State, the net annual payment to be made to the Company, under the contract, would be about 1¼ lakh per annum. Much larger net annual payments varying from 3½ to 2 lakhs will, however, be necessary in the next five or six years, during the infancy of the Railway when net earnings would be necessarily low, and I have only to add that the Government have made an accurate forecast of the various liabilities above explained, and expect to be able to meet them in due time.

As regards actual construction of the extension from Gubbi to Harihar, you will be glad to learn that the works are all being pushed on with vigor by the Company. Progress, however, has not been as good as was anticipated between Gubbi and Birur, owing to the insufficiency of local labor, and this portion of the line will probably not be opened for traffic until the next official year. Works along the northern sections are; it is understood, rapidly approaching completion and it is believed that from Harihar to Kadur, the line will be opened for traffic during the course of the next few months. I am unable to state yet what the total cost of the new line will be, but the Government of India have issued strict orders that a limit of 80 lakhs should not be exceeded between Gubbi and Harihar and we may therefore assume that the total cost of the Railway from Mysore to Harihar will not exceed

Rs.	Rs. *1,48,60,000, especially as it has been decided to relieve
*68,60,508 already spent by Mysore	Mysore of a moiety of the cost of the Tungabhadra bridge
on Mysore to Gubbi,	at Harihar, which it was at first proposed to debit against the
80,00,000 now being spent by Com-	Harihar extension:
pany on Gubbi to Harihar.	

It will interest you to know that a scheme is now under discussion to extend the Mysore Branch as far as Nanjangud and thence on to Gudalur at the foot of Neilgherri Hills. Whether such a line, of incalculable benefit to our most Southern Taluks, will eventually take precedence of that proposed to connect Bangalore with Hindupur or Seringapatam with Arsikere *via* Hassan, it is as yet impossible to say. Meanwhile the traffic on our open line, I am glad to say, continues to increase slowly but steadily and there can be little doubt that the early opening of the line as far as Harihar will give an immense impetus to our commercial progress all over the Province.

Public Works.—And now I turn to that part of our Public Works policy in which the majority of the community are most keenly interested—I refer to Irrigation. The object and scope of our policy on this subject are fully illustrated by our Public Works Budget for the current year, to which I request your careful attention.

You will observe therefrom that, towards Public Works of all kinds, we have made from the Provincial Revenue a grant of twenty lakhs of rupees, a proportion of our resources which—other claims and services and our general financial position considered—must be taken as most liberal. This grant is swelled by the addition of Rs. 5,29,000 from District Funds, Rs. 2,00,000 from the Provincial Irrigation Fund and Rs. 92,000 from Local Funds General, so that there is 28½ lakhs of rupees available for works of all kinds in the current year. Civil Buildings, Communications, Public Improvements and Establishments necessarily absorb a large proportion of the total grant; but there remains about 9½ lakhs to be devoted solely to Irrigation works. Of this large sum, about 8½ lakhs are given to purely original works, that is, to altogether new Tanks and Channels, or to the improvement, enlargement or extension of those already existing so as to increase their irrigating power. The remaining 1½ lakh is necessarily absorbed in the maintenance and repair of old works, that is, to keeping them in efficient working order and preventing deterioration.

If you look into details, it will be seen that 200 old tanks are now under restoration or will shortly be so, in other words, are being enlarged or improved; that the irrigation from 25 others is being extended by adding to their catchment areas by means of artificial feeders or by perfecting and extending their distribution channels: that 12 altogether new tanks of large capacity and 10 new anikats are being built: that such important channels as the Rajaparameswari, the Maddur, the Ramasamudram, the Anandur, are being greatly improved and extended: that the Rampur Channel is being entirely remodelled: whilst most important extensions to the Virjanadi, the Hulhalli, the Kalhalli, the Ramaswami, the Mandigherri, and the entire restoration of the old and long abandoned Mahdapur anikat and channels (or as an alternative the extension of the great Sriramadevara Channel) will very shortly be in hand. And the amounts of the estimates as detailed in the Budget, ranging as they do from Rs. 5,000 to 3 lakhs and upwards, will indicate the importance of all these works. This, you will observe, is no insignificant programme as regards irrigation.

Further if we compare what is now being done with what was done during previous years, there is evidence of very marked progress. In 1881—82, the outlay on irrigation works and repairs was but—

					Rs.	3,28,368
In 1882—83	..	..	..	..	„	2,85,297
In 1883—84	..	..	..	..	„	3,54,189
In 1884—85	..	..	..	..	„	3,41,520
In 1885—86	..	..	..	..	„	4,54,145
In 1886—87	..	..	..	..	„	5,98,628
In 1887—88	..	..	..	..	„	7,14,277

and in this year, if we can only get over the labor difficulty which threatens, we hope to spend over 9½ lakhs.

But it may be asked what actual addition to the irrigated area of the Province, will be made by the works executed during the last few years and those now under execution. Inasmuch as during the years immediately succeeding the Rendition, but very few original works were undertaken and as it will take time before definite results are realized from those of the last few years, it will be best for me to answer this question by giving for each District the approximate quantity of additional water that will be stored in ordinary years when all the tank works begun since April 1885 and those included in our Current Budget are completed.

					Units.
Bangalore District	...	...	...	...	1,422
Kolar	„	...	...	...	6,834
Tumkur	„	...	...	...	5,391
Chitaldroog	„	...	...	...	2,524
Mysore	„	...	...	...	3,364
Shimoga	„	...	...	...	1,813
Kadur	„	...	...	...	1,555
Hassan	„	...	...	...	586

Total.....23,489

A unit of water being what is required for the irrigation of an acre of land, this represents the addition of over 23,000 acres to the hitherto existing tank irrigated area of the Province.

Taking again our channels, and making a fair allowance for those extensions budgetted for, but which have not yet been worked out in full detail, I find that the following additional acreage will be brought under irrigation in the next five years :—

	Acres.
Ramaswami Channel	3,000
Rajaparameswari "	1,000
Virjanadi "	3,000
Anandur "	1,000
Kalhalli "	1,185
Ramasamudram "	2,474
Mandigherri "	1,500
Rampur "	5,574
Hulhalli "	4,000
Maddur "	900
Mahdapur "	4,600
Sriramadevara "	1,500

Total.....29,733

I exclude from this list channels which have been taken up or which it is proposed to take up, but of the revenue results of which there are doubts. I allude to the
 *The anikats across the Talkad Channel, the Saligram and such minor channels as the Solur, Veda and the Avati. the Sowlanga, the Yagati, *Ghirzai, &c., of which it is difficult at present to estimate the ultimate results.

I informed you last year that those projects brought to notice by the members of this Assembly were invariably investigated with care, and sanction given in due course to those which on examination proved remunerative or useful. The same course will be pursued hereafter, but as the investigation of the proposals takes up much of the time and attention of our Engineers, I would take the liberty of asking you carefully to weigh the feasibility and utility of every project before submitting it for the consideration of Government.

I have before me now a list of the proposals brought forward by the members of the Assembly of 1887. These embraced 10 tanks, 10 anikats, 6 channel extensions, 8 tank feeders, 7 bridges and 7 roads. I may state at once that it would greatly lighten the work of our Engineers if proposals for local roads, believed to be desirable, were first laid before the Local Fund Boards who are fully empowered to deal with the same and who have the best means of judging of their utility or necessity. The new roads under reference, I believe to be more or less useful, but it is best to leave them to be dealt with by the Boards as funds become available, direct action on our part in regard to them not being desirable. The same remark applies to minor bridges which are chargeable to District Funds and for which State help is not called for. As regards the large and important bridges, those for the Tunga and Bhadra have already been sanctioned, and it is hoped that in the course of the next few years, bridges across the Cauvery at Yedatore and the Hemavati at Holé-Narsipur will be taken in hand. A bridge across the Cauvery at Bannur will not be required for many years to come, and a bridge at Yedatore will supersede the necessity for bridges at Ramanathpur, Tippur or Hampapur. Of the irrigation works proposed, several have been found either impracticable or unremunerative. Those that promise well are already in hand or will be so ere long. A list, with remarks regarding each work brought forward in this Assembly last year, is now available for any member wishing to examine it.

Tank Maintenance.—In my remarks of last year, I alluded at some length to the scheme inaugurated in 1886—87 and now being gradually worked up which aimed at the enforcement of the ancient custom of maintaining our tanks by the agency of the ryots themselves. Towards the close of the year it unfortunately happened that opposition to this measure in some Districts, instigated by a few disaffected or ill-advised persons, became so keen that it was found advisable to enjoin on the District Officers concerned absolute abstention from pressure of any sort. Conciliatory means were to be adopted to bring over the ryots to cordial co-operation, to make them understand that the measure, a mild one in reality and one always recognized, was solely intended for their own ultimate benefit—that sooner or later without their direct assistance in maintaining the earthwork their tanks must be ruined. In some parts, I regret to say, this has not yet had the desired effect, but in other places a most promising measure of success has been attained. I may quote as examples the Dodballapur and Nelamangala Taluks where a considerable quantity of earthwork has already been carried out by the ryots, Government contributing masonry and stone work. In the Shimoga and Shikarpur Taluks of the Shimoga District, the ryots have evinced a most praiseworthy spirit of co-operation, and many tanks have been put in order, which, but for such co-operation, must have remained in disrepair for many years to come; whilst in some Taluks in Mysore, Hassan and Chitaldroog there are many tanks now under repair by the villagers themselves. I hold that, with tact and perseverance on the part of all Revenue Officials, and with care in selecting such tanks only as directly benefit the cultivating ryot,

the example already set in some Taluks of the Province will soon be followed throughout all the Districts. I cannot too forcibly impress on you, as representatives of the people, the necessity that exists for the ryots assisting Government in this matter, not only by fully maintaining those tanks already restored, but by contributing their labor to the restoration of the vast number of tanks all over the country now in disrepair and which it is absolutely impossible for Government to deal with without such assistance.

As regards roads, bridges and works of public improvement, I need only say this year, that the same policy of advance as was indicated last year is being steadily pursued. We are bridging over unbridged rivers, improving our old lines of communications, and extending new lines according to requirements. Our grants towards these works are so liberal, that there is every hope that before many years elapse, Mysore will be in regard to roads and bridges, on a par with the foremost Provinces of India.

I now come to make a few remarks upon some of the special questions referred to in last year's address:

Kodagi Inams.—The revision of the Kodagi Settlement, in which the people of the Kolar District take so keen an interest, is under progress in accordance with the promise given last year. In response to the Inam Superintendent's Notification, 261 applications for revision have been received. The principles laid down for the conduct of the revision are:—

1stly, That no Kodagi Inams shall be treated as granted only for "up-keep" unless this is most clearly and directly proved;

and 2ndly, That the general rule of interpretation shall be that all Kodagi Inams were granted for *construction and up-keep* and not for *mere up-keep*.

You will thus see that a settlement based on these instructions will bring several Inams now settled under Class II, under the more liberal Class I; and the Government of His Highness the Maharaja are disposed to think that this arrangement would exhaust all reasonable complaints or nearly all. It is believed that, in the large majority of cases, the Inamdars would prefer the payment of $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ quit-rent to the risk of entire forfeiture in cases of failure to keep up the tank to the requisite Government standard; for, the revival of the Kodagi tenure would, as a matter of course, be burdened with that just condition. Colonel Grant has, however, been asked to make a note of all applicants who may desire the restoration of the Kodagi tenure with the old liabilities and submit the cases for further consideration and decision.

I need hardly mention that Inamdars who have spent money on their tanks relying upon the orders issued in 1881 will receive just compensation at the re-settlement.

Inamdars' Toddy Revenue.—The subject of Inamdars' claims to the Toddy Revenue was discussed last year. The set of draft rules, on which I then invited you to express your views, have not yet been adopted by Government. The information received from the Districts regarding the amount of revenue involved being incomplete, it has been deemed expedient to defer action in regard to the rules in question, till the expiry of the present Toddy Contracts, that is till 31st March 1890. In the meantime the existing rules will continue to be in force and will be duly carried out by the District Officers. This decision would be just to all interests concerned. The present contractors took up their contracts on the distinct understanding that the existing rules would remain unaltered during the term of their contract. What particular Inamdars are entitled to the Toddy Revenue was a question that was settled at the late Inam Settlement, and the decision then recorded will of course be strictly adhered to, and the claims of Inamdars entitled to the Toddy Revenue under that settlement will be adjudicated upon and duly enforced in accordance with the Orders of 1873, 1877 and 1881 and para V of the Conditions attached to the present Toddy Contracts.

Forests.—The next subject to which I would request your attention is the Forest Department which has continued to yield satisfactory results, both financially and otherwise.

During the past year, several State Forests were extended and a large number of valuable jungle tracts in varying stages of denudation, were brought under proper conservancy.

Fuel supply threatens to be the great problem of the future. The Railway extension to Harihar, the advancing Kolar Gold Industry, the Cotton and Wollen Mills at Bangalore and a rising population with expanding cultivation tend to enormously increase the demand for fuel and to diminish the source of its supply. There has thus arisen the necessity for carefully conserving as large and as many jungle tracts as possible, more especially those in the vicinity of the Railway.

The spontaneous growth of timber in forests and of fuel in reserved jungle tracts, is being supplemented by plantations on an extensive scale, and the Plantation Branch of the Forest Department planted during the past year about 4 lakhs of timber trees and $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs fuel trees, on an aggregate area of 1,481 acres or nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles.

Besides these regular plantations by Departmental agency, plantations of timber, fuel, fruit and sandal trees, have been started in several Taluks under the direction of the Revenue Officers: and the cheap and efficient system of sowing the seed broadcast upon waste land after a thorough ploughing, has, wherever earnestly tried, yielded striking results.

Sandalwood has, as usual, continued to yield a large portion of the Forest Revenue. Every attention is being given to sustain a perpetual supply of this valuable wood. Large tracts, with a good growth of sandalwood, have been formed into sandal preserves and have been brought under a system of protection, while the artificial reproduction of the tree is being carried out on a definite system.

In thus conserving forests and sandalwood tracts, the Government has not been unmindful of the necessities of the ryots in the matter of grazing and, well aware that a good breed of cattle constitutes the chief wealth and prop of our agricultural community, they have conceded to some extent the privilege of grazing in reserved forests, at certain seasons and in certain parts, on payment of a small fee.

Connected with forests there are now before Government two questions of some importance. The first of these is the free grant of wood for certain public purposes, and to ryots for cattle sheds, and, in exempted Taluks, also for building purposes. The second relates to the grant of land on favorable terms, for private plantations. The draft rules, which the Government propose to issue on both these subjects, will be circulated among you, and I shall be glad to receive any practical suggestions you may wish to make regarding them.

I may here add that steps are being taken to organize Khedda operations in July next in the Chamarajnagar Taluk, and from the experience to be thus gained, it is hoped subsequently to extend operations to other suitable localities. A successful capture is not only a source of direct gain to Government but a great public boon in localities where so much damage to crops is annually caused by wild elephants.

Education.—The progress of education throughout the year has been most satisfactory, and there are, on every side, evidences of an eager desire to take advantage of the means of instruction and that not only in large and populous towns but also in remote and secluded villages. In the last two years the numbers under instruction have increased by over 20 per cent.

Of the Taluk Schools as many as 40 per cent contain each from 100 to 330 pupils. The larger Hobli Schools, in which the attendance approached or exceeded 100, were converted into Taluk Branch Schools, and the levy of fees, which this step involved, has been readily accepted by the people, a decided indication of popular interest in education. To some extent this development of the Vernacular Schools may be attributed to the influence of the Mysore Local Examination, which has thus proved itself well adapted to the needs of the country. The thanks of the Government are due to the numerous private donors who have spontaneously come forward with offers of prizes and gifts for the successful candidates.

The English Middle and High Schools are every year improving in efficiency, especially those at District Head-quarters; and higher education is well provided for by the existing Colleges which continue to be maintained at a high standard of efficiency.

The Mysore Scholars going through courses of professional instruction at Poona and Madras have acquitted themselves with credit. This is especially the case with the Engineering Scholars at Poona where two Mysore students took the first and second places respectively at the last L. C. E. Examination and thus become entitled to both the guaranteed appointments in the Bombay Public Works Department. The Mysore Engineering Students at Poona waited upon His Highness the Maharaja when he visited Poona in last February. His Highness was much pleased to hear of their progress and addressed them a few words of gracious encouragement.

Female education continues to gain in popularity and the good influence exerted by the success of Her Highness the Maharani's Girls' School at Mysore has led to the establishment of additional Schools on a similar system in other places. One has been opened at the important town of Melkote and another, founded to commemorate the Jubilee of the QUEEN EMPRESS, has been established at Tumkur.

Desirous that no class should be left behind in the Educational race, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja have, during the past year, instituted a system of special scholarships for the benefit of the Pallegar pensionaries of the State, and for Mahomedans. The former are designed as inducements to the principal Pallegar houses to put the younger members of their families under suitable courses of instruction with a view to qualifying them for the public service. The Mahomedans who have not hitherto come forward, as freely as could be wished, to avail themselves of the benefits of higher education have been given every encouragement by the institution of special scholarships.

In the Department of Archæology, nine Taluks were surveyed during the year and over 1,000 inscriptions added to the collections previously made. Good progress has been made with the volume of Jain inscriptions at Sravanabelagula. (Also more than a half has been printed of the great grammatical work, the Karnataka Sabdanusasanam and its commentaries, as well as of the Vikramarjuna Vijaya of the poet Pampa.)

In order that the results of the present survey may be exhibited in a more tangible form, it is proposed that a portion of the Victoria Jubilee Institute, now under erection at Mysore, should be set apart as a Hall of Inscriptions. Here will be collected, selected specimens, which will be built into the walls, systematically arranged in chronological order. They will thus not only form permanent records, but be available for reference and study as original standard authorities, for the forms and style of the language, at the periods to which they respectively belong, an object of high educational value.

The next subject which demands our attention is the constitution of this Assembly. I drew your attention last year to the rules prescribed on the subject. These rules have been emphasised in the orders of Government issued this year. It was found on an analysis of the classes to which the members of the last year belonged, that the property qualification, on which the selection of the majority of the members should depend, was not sufficiently attended to; and in some of the Districts—Kolar, Mysore, Tumkur and Bangalore—the land-holders were not those who paid the highest assessment. It is the wish of His Highness' Government that the largest land-holders should as a matter of course be invited to this Assembly, excepting of course such of them as happened to labor under any special disqualification, and particular attention was accordingly directed to this point in the nominations made this year. The Deputy Commissioners were also requested to personally attend to the selection of members. I need hardly explain to you that His Highness' object, in insisting upon these conditions, is that the landed interests in the country should be represented in this Assembly by men possessed of high local influence, with devotion to public good, and independence of character. It is His Highness' intention to have a standing list of the highest land-holders in the Province, and, as it is not possible to get all of them to attend these meetings in every year, to make an annual selection from such list either by rotation or some other principle of exclusion.

Gentlemen,—I informed you last year of the visit which His Highness the Maharaja proposed to pay to His Excellency the Viceroy in Calcutta. That visit was paid in January last with the happiest results. His Highness took that opportunity to visit other places of note as well, among others the capitals of two of the principal Rajput States—Jeypur and Jodhpur—and the capital of his friend the Maharaja Gaikwar. He was everywhere received with great consideration and respect and was especially touched by the fraternal regard and affection which marked his treatment at the courts of his brother Native Chiefs.

Gentlemen, in conclusion it only remains for me now to call attention to the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, now being held in our midst. His Highness the Maharaja's object in holding it in this City and at this time of the year, has been to afford you special facilities for visiting it. It gives you an opportunity for comparing the agricultural capabilities of your respective Taluks with those of other places, for informing yourselves of the success that has been attained in various parts of the country in improving the breed of cattle and for obtaining some practical idea of the extent to which manual labor can be saved, by the employment of suitable machinery for lifting water for irrigation purposes, and for other operations connected with agriculture. His Highness is deeply sensible of the valuable advantages which the Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial interests of the Province will receive from Exhibitions such as the present, but, their success depends upon your practical appreciation of their usefulness. And it is therefore His Highness' earnest hope that you may be able to derive useful information on the various sections of Agriculture and Industry now represented and that when you return to your homes you will, by your example and influence, contribute to the best of your ability towards the realization of the objects of this Exhibition.

K. SHESHADRI IYER,
Dewan of Mysore.